

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CARACA 11237 211209Z

64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EUR-12 EA-07 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00

DLOS-06 OES-06 L-03 /057 W

----- 117384

R 202012Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4816

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 11237

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, VE

SUBJECT: PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO VENEZUELAN CHARTERED
VESSELS

1. VENEZUELAN AGENTS OF AMERICAN FLAG LINES HAVE INFORMED US THAT THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS ISSUED A CIRCULAR TO THE PORT SERVICE AUTHORITY ORDERING BERTH PREFERENCE TO VESSELS: (1) VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT-OWNED (16 IN NUMBER); (2) VENEZUELAN CHARTERED OF ANY FLAG (32 IN NUMBER); (3) PRIVATE VENEZUELAN FLAG; (4) OTHER FOREIGN FLAG. THIS ORDER WAS PUT INTO EFFECT LAST WEEK AT A TIME WHEN THERE WERE 72 VESSELS WAITING BERTH SPACE AT THE THREE MAJOR VENEZUELAN PORTS.

2. THIS POLICY HAS CAUSED VENEZUELAN AGENTS OF NON-VENEZUELAN LINES TO HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS AS TO THEIR ABILITY TO OBTAIN BERTH SPACE WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME. EACH TIME ANOTHER HIGHER PRIORITY VESSEL ARRIVES IT PUSHES AMERICAN AND OTHER THIRD COUNTRY VESSELS BACK FARTHER ON THE WAITING LIST. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE VESSEL RECENTLY WAS RANKED ELEVENTH IN LINE FOR BERTH SPACE. THE NEXT DAY, AFTER THE SAILING OF TWO VESSELS, THE LOW-PRIORITY VESSEL IN QUESTION ACTUALLY LOST GROUND TO POSITION NUMBER TWELVE. THE U.S. SANTA ANNA ARRIVED SEP. 8 AND
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CARACA 11237 211209Z

DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO DISCHARGE HER CARGO BEFORE

SEP. 24.

3. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH MARIANO TIRADO, CHIEF OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. TIRADO IS OF THE OPINION THAT THERE IS NO INTERNATIONAL ACCORD WHICH GUARANTEES PORT USAGE ON A "FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED" BASIS, BUT HE AGREES THAT MOST PORTS OPERATE IN THIS MANNER, AS VENEZUELA HAS IN THE PAST. TIRADO STATED THAT THIS NEW SYSTEM OF PRIORITIES (AS DELINEATED IN PARAGRAPH ONE OF THIS MESSAGE) HAS GENERATED COMPLAINTS FROM SEVERAL EMBASSIES.

4. THE EMBASSY IS INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY THAT A LEGAL BASIS EXISTS UNDER VENEZUELAN CODES AND DECREES FOR THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION'S CIRCULAR.

5. BOTH BRITISH AND JAPANESE ECONOMIC COUNSELORS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING NEW PRIORITIES INASMUCH AS THE LARGE NUMBER OF VESSELS NOW UNDER CHARTER TO VENEZUELAN FLAG LINES GREATLY EXACERBATE DELAYS ENCOUNTERED BY THEIR MERCHANT VESSELS AS WELL.
VAKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PORT FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA11237
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760357-0060
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760942/aaaabkah.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO VENEZUELAN CHARTERED VESSELS
TAGS: EWWT, VE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006